

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 and claim 2 is canceled. Claims 5 and 8 are amended to depend from claims 1 and 3-4 in view of the cancellation of claim 2. No new matter is presented.

Entry of the amendment after final is proper since the subject matter of a dependent claim is incorporated in the independent claim. Entry of the amendment is respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamamura et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,981,616.

Claims 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yamamura et al as applied to the claims hereinabove, further in view of Jansen et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,916,855.

Claim 1 is amended herein by incorporating the subject matter of claim 2 as stated above. As amended, claim 1 requires that a polyfunctional epoxy compound other than Component A and/or a polyfunctional epoxy oxetane compound are not contained at 10 parts or greater relative to 100 parts of the total resin components.

Yamamura et al does not teach or suggest this element of the present claims. Specifically, at column 8, lines 25-31, Yamamura et al teaches that the proportion of component (A), i.e., an oxetane compound, in the resin composition is usually 30-97% by weight, preferably 40-96% by weight and more preferably 50-95% by weight. Yamamura et al further teaches that if the proportion of component (A) is too low, the curing rate of the cationic polymerization

reaction is so reduced that the molding time may be extended and the resolution tends to be lower. Thus, Yamamura et al teaches away from the present invention.

Furthermore, each of the compositions in examples 1 to 5 of Yamamura et al contains 10 parts or greater of a polyfunctional epoxy compound other than Component A in the present invention and/or a polyfunctional oxetane compound relative to 100 parts of the total resin components. There is no apparent reason for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine the teachings of Yamamura et al with a reasonable expectation of success in achieving the presently claimed invention.

Jansen et al does not remedy the deficiencies of Yamamura et al. Jansen et al discloses an epoxidated polybutadiene (col. 22, lines 33-34). However, Component A in the present invention is a polyfunctional epoxy polymer having a polybutadiene skeleton or a hydrogenated polybutadiene skeleton and two or more glycidyloxy groups in the molecule, and is not an epoxidated polybutadiene. Therefore Jansen et al does not disclose Component A and does not disclose a composition in which a number of parts of Component A added is 25 to 45 parts by weight relative to 100 parts by weight of the total resin components.

In addition, a mono-oxetane compound described in column 22, lines 35-37, of Jansen et al is not the oxetane compound represented by Formula (1) (Component B) in the present invention. Furthermore, Jansen et al does not teach or suggest Component C in the present invention.

Thus, the present invention would not have been achieved even if the Yamamura et al and Jansen et al were combined. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

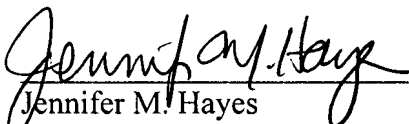
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